TIM BRIGGS, MEMBER 149TH DISTRICT

580 SHOEMAKER ROAD, SUITE 149 KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-4205 (610) 768-3135 FAX: (610) 768-3112

WEBSITE WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/BRIGGS



House of Representatives COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

August 7, 2012

Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator Environmental Protection Agency Ariel Rios Building 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20460 FINANCE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEES

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

2012 AUG 13 PM 1: 12

RE: Finalization of EPA guidelines for hydro-fracking operations using diesel

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I am writing to request the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalize guidance on hydraulic fracturing operations using diesel or diesel-like additives.

In Pennsylvania, the natural gas industry has grown significantly in recent years due to the discoveries of large gas deposits and the expansion of the hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," process. As a representative for the 149th Legislative District, I feel it is the responsibility of our state government to ensure the safety of our environment and our water supply.

As you know, since 2005 the EPA has had statutory authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act to regulate fracking operations when diesel is part of the chemical mixture used within the well bore. To this date it has fail to do so, and it is a disservice to the residents of Pennsylvania to further withhold finalized guidelines on this process.

To whatever degree the EPA is permitted to engage in regulating hydraulic fracturing in our state, I encourage it to do so and quickly. My hope is that the EPA will set the strictest possible standards for these sites and set a high bar for state regulatory operations in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Briggs

State Representative 149th Legislative District



House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

TIM BRIGGS, MEMBER 580 SHOEMAKER ROAD, SUITE 149 KING OF PRUSSIA. PENNSYLVANIA 19406-4205





FCI 1005200

Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator Environmental Protection Agency Ariel Rios Building 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W. Washington, DC 20460

20460

haldlim baldlalladada



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 2 7 2012

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Tim Briggs Pennsylvania House of Representatives 580 Shoemaker Road, Suite 149 King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-4205

Dear Mr. Briggs:

Thank you for your letter dated August 7, 2012, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with regard to the *Permitting Guidance for Oil and Gas Hydraulic Fracturing Activities Using Diesel Fuels – Draft: Underground Injection Control Program Guidance #84*. Because my office is responsible for implementing the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, I have been asked to respond to your letter.

Natural gas plays a key role in our nation's clean energy future, and the EPA is working to ensure that America's shale gas resources are developed responsibly, so that public health is protected as the nation gains important economic and energy assets. The Agency shares your concerns for protecting public health and the environment. The EPA will continue to work within congressionally granted statutory authorities under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to improve oversight and management of oil and gas drilling activities.

In your letter, you urge the EPA to finalize the draft guidance to ensure the safety of the environment and water resources in Pennsylvania. The EPA has received similar comments and the Agency is moving to do just that. The public comment period for the draft permitting guidance was extended from July 9, 2012, to August 23, 2012. The Agency will consider input from all stakeholders to ensure that the guidance is protective of underground sources of drinking water.

The EPA appreciates your concern and interest in our efforts to protect human health and the environment. Up-to-date information about the EPA's hydraulic fracturing related activities can be found at www.epa.gov/hydraulicfracturing. The EPA values Pennsylvania's continued cooperation and we are looking forward to working with your state to ensure full public health protection under the SDWA.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Pam Barr, in the EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water at (202) 564-3750.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner

READING FILE

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE, MEMBER 95TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

CAPITOL OFFICE 116-A EAST WING P.O. BOX 202095 HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2095 (717) 787-7514 FAX: (717) 780-4765

> DISTRICT OFFICE: ONE MARKETWAY WEST SHITE 9A YORK, PENNSYLVANIA 17401 (717) 848-9595 FAX: (717) 848-1871

WEBSITE: WWW.PAHOUSE COM/DEPASQUALE



July 23, 2012

Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, DC 20460.

Dear Administrator Jackson,

BEN FRANKLIN TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

COMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY

APPOINTMENTS

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

STATE GOVERNMENT

ETHICS

JUDICIARY

As a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, I am concerned with protecting Pennsylvania's water. I welcome EPA's efforts to provide needed health and environmental protections from natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale. Already, the Pennsylvania DEP has issued over 10,000 permits to drill wells in the Marcellus Shale.

The 2005 Energy Policy Act's exemption of hydraulic fracturing from federal regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act shifted the responsibility to unprepared state governments and agencies. The result has been a patchwork across the United States of state laws, regulations, and enforcement systems that often fall short of the protection needed for our health, safety. environment, and drinking water sources. Pennsylvania has a system where the disclosure of the chemicals used in fracking does not have to be submitted until 60 days after commencement of fracking, where the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) often streamlines drilling permits instead of thoroughly reviewing their details, and where inspectors are not required to be on site to monitor critical steps in the operation to ensure they are done properly. However, concerns voiced during the debate of the 2005 Energy Policy Act led lawmakers to include one important loophole to the exemption that requires the Safe Drinking Water Act to apply when diesel is used in fracking fluids.

Despite industry claims to the contrary, increasing evidence shows that the use of diesel remains widespread. Last year, Congressional researchers found that more than 32 million gallons of diesel were injected underground by fracking operations between 2005 and 2009. Diesel contains toxic chemicals like benzene, toulene, ethylbenzene and xylene (BTEX compounds) which are linked to cancer, kidney and liver problems, and nervous system damage, are toxic at very low levels, and are soluble in water. Taking action to control the use of diesel in hydraulic fracturing is an important step in protecting underground sources of drinking water from the dangers of this industrial practice.

When state laws, regulations, and oversight, are not strong enough the EPA must use its' authority to help protect our health, safety, environment, and drinking water sources from the dangers of hydraulic fracturing. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires EPA to regulate underground injection of all fluids. The Underground Injection (UIC) Program and its permitting system are meant to protect underground sources of drinking water by setting requirements for injection wells in order to prevent violations of drinking water standards and adverse public health effects. Since the 2005 Energy Policy Act mandates EPA to require a permit for hydraulic fracturing operations using diesel, EPA's guidance is needed to give federal and state permit writers specific procedures to follow for granting Safe Drinking Water Act permits for hydraulic fracturing operations.

The proposed guidance document must enact the best federal policy possible regarding hydraulic fracturing operations that use diesel. This document should set strong standards where EPA has primacy regarding UIC and create a strong minimum standard for states that have primacy for the UIC program.

I urge you to take the following actions:

- Ban the use of diesel in hydraulic fracturing. Concern about diesel use in this method of gas extraction is warranted. The Department of Energy's Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB) Shale Gas Subcommittee found that, in light of these risks and the available alternatives, "there is no technical or economic reason to use diesel as a stimulating fluid." [Natural Gas Subcommittee, First 90-day interim report, (August 18, 2011), page 25, http://www.shalegas.energy.gov/resources/081811 90 day report final.pdf]
- If you do not institute a complete ban on the use of diesel, you should publish final Guidance that puts in place the strictest possible requirements in order to protect underground sources of drinking water.
- The Guidance should define diesel to include petroleum distillates and BTEX-containing compounds in order to most fully prevent contamination of drinking water from these hazardous chemicals.
- The Guidance should require that the public be notified of any permit applications for the
 use of diesel in hydraulic fracturing operations, and there should be adequate ability for
 the public to participate in the permitting process.
- You should initiate formal rulemaking, in order to give the protections the full force of the law. Because hydraulic fracturing operations using diesel are covered by the Safe Drinking Water Act and because the UIC program is an appropriate way to protect drinking water from these operations, a rule with the force of law is necessary.

Page 3 Guidance for Oil and Gas Hydraulic Fracturing Activities Using Diesel Fuel

The federal government and Environmental Protection Agency have an important role to play in helping protect and defend our health, safety, environment, and drinking water sources from the dangers of hydraulic fracturing. Please take a strong stand when it comes to using diesel is vital to this effort.

Sincerely,

Eugene DePasquale State Representative

95th Legislative District



House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

EUGENE A DEPASQUALE, MEMBER 116A EAST WING PO BOX 202095 HARRISBURG PENNSYLVANIA 17120 2095







TO MS LISA JULISON NOIA

Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, DC 20460

intellimental distinctional



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 2 1 2012

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Eugene A. DePasquale Pennsylvania House of Representatives 116-A East Wing P.O. Box 202095 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-2095

Dear Mr. DePasquale:

Thank you for your letter requesting the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action on hydraulic fracturing. The Agency takes your concerns very seriously. Natural gas plays a key role in our nation's clean energy future, and the EPA is working to ensure that America's shale gas resources are developed responsibly, so that public health is protected as the nation gains important economic and energy assets. We will continue to work within our congressionally granted statutory authorities under the Safe Drinking Water Act to improve oversight and management of natural gas drilling activities.

Many questions remain about the impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water quality and public health. We are committed to working with states and tribes to ensure that the extraction of natural gas using hydraulic fracturing technology does not adversely affect drinking water supplies. The EPA initiated a study last year at the request of Congress to better understand the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and drinking water resources. The final study plan was issued on November 3, 2011, and can be found on our website

(http://water.cpa.gov/type/groundwater/uic/class2/hydraulicfracturing/upload/FINAL-STUDY-PLAN-HF_Web_2.pdf). The initial research results and study findings will be released to the public in late 2012. The final report will be delivered in 2014.

As you noted, in May of this year the EPA released for public comment draft guidance to assist the EPA permit writers to ensure that ground water is protected where diesel is used in hydraulic fracturing. This comment period was extended for an additional 45 days and now ends on August 23, 2012. The EPA has also been holding workshops and webinars with regulatory agencies and industry to seek input on ways to streamline the permitting process and reduce burden on state regulatory agencies and owners and operators, while maintaining that protection. The Agency proposes to do this in an open and transparent manner, and will consider input from all stakeholders to ensure that the guidance is sufficiently protective of underground sources of drinking water.

In your letter you urged the EPA to ban the use of diesel in hydraulic fracturing. Alternatively, if the EPA decided not to completely ban the use of diesel, you urged the EPA to include some specific recommendations related to any final guidance that would be published. In addition, you requested that instead of guidance, the EPA should undertake a formal rulemaking. The EPA has received similar comments on the *Permitting Guidance for Oil and Gas Hydraulic Fracturing Activities Using Diesel Fuels* and will consider all comments moving forward.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Pamela Barr, Acting Director of the Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water at (202) 564-3752.

Sincerely,

Mancy K. Stoner
Acting Assistant Administrator

Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2012

Ms. Lisa Jackson Administrator Environmental Protection Agency Ariel Rios Building 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Ms. Jackson:

We write to express our concern relating to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) draft permitting guidance for oil and natural gas hydraulic fracturing activities using diesel fuels. Specifically we are concerned that this guidance will upend the current successful state-federal relationship in Pennsylvania because our state does not have primacy enforcement authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Instead of using guidance, we request EPA undertake a formal rulemaking to determine whether federal regulations on diesel fuels and hydraulic fracturing operations are needed.

Pennsylvania has a long and successful history of regulating oil and natural gas production operations. In fact, the Pennsylvania state regulations are constantly evolving to meet new developments in the industry. Pennsylvania's oil and natural gas regulations were recently revised to accommodate hydraulic fracturing operations with horizontal components that are producing natural gas from the Marcellus Shale.

As a further safeguard, in May 2010, Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) volunteered to have the state's hydraulic fracturing regulations reviewed by the non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization known as State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulations (STRONGER). STRONGER's unique review process involves a three-member team, consisting of a state regulator, an environmental representative and an oil and natural gas industry representative. All three team members must sign off on the STRONGER review prior to completion. In September 2010, the Pennsylvania STRONGER review team concluded that the state's hydraulic fracturing regulatory program was "well-managed, professional and meeting its program objectives." (September 2010)

In the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 2005), Congress reiterated the longstanding practice that states or other local bodies should be the regulators of hydraulic fracturing. In EPAct 2005, Congress stated that EPA did not have the authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing except when "diesel fuels" were used as "fluids or propping agents." Clearly, the federal authority to regulate will hinge on the definition of diesel fuels.

Subsequent to passage of EPAct 2005, EPA took no action to implement the discretionary authority granted to EPA. In 2010, however, EPA included a posting on its website that all hydraulic

fracturing operations using diesel fuels must obtain a UIC permit. EPA's website posting was followed by the development of guidance for permitting under EPA's SDWA authority.

We are concerned that the proposed guidance document defines diesel fuels too broadly and will capture non-diesel fuels. EPA's definition would bring a much larger portion of America's oil and natural gas development operations within the federal government's regulatory authority (i.e. UIC program) than was intended to be regulated at the federal level by Congress at the time EPAct 2005 was enacted. In the guidance document, EPA presents six CAS numbers. However, only two of the CAS listed by EPA actually have "diesel" as a primary name. More troubling is the May 10, 2010 Federal Register Notice EPA solicits comments on whether the definition of diesel fuels should be "static" or evolving, and whether EPA should include a seventh CAS number that is "like diesel fuel." In doing so, the draft permitting guidance does not provide any clarity as to whether an operator must receive a Class II UIC permit.

Moreover, we are troubled with impact this guidance will have on operations in the State of Pennsylvania, which does not have primacy under the UIC program. In the current regulatory environment, Pennsylvania is the sole permitting authority for hydraulic fracturing operations in the state. This makes the most sense since Pennsylvanians know what is best for the state, and are best positioned to determine the impact drilling operations will have on the community and the environment.

EPA's draft permitting guidance for oil and natural gas production activities using diesel fuels would profoundly alter the state's regulatory landscape. Specifically, the EPA permitting guidance creates a dual permitting structure where operators would be forced to get a UIC Class II permit from EPA and a state well construction permit from Pennsylvania DEP.

Acting Assistant EPA Administrator Nancy Stoner testified before the Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Committee in the United States House of Representatives on May 31, 2012. In Acting Administrator Stoner's testimony, she indicated the permitting guidance was directly intended for use by EPA permit writers under the UIC program and that it was applicable in states where EPA directly implements the UIC Class II program, including Pennsylvania. As such, this no longer allows Pennsylvania to be the sole regulatory authority for hydraulic fracturing operations within the State. This would be both costly and unnecessary in light of Pennsylvania's record of regulatory success.

Given the incredible implications for Pennsylvania, this policy should be subject to the rulemaking procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) just like any other substantive policy change. The draft permitting guidance, if enacted, would impose new substantive requirements on operators and would drastically alter the state-federal relationship. A rulemaking process would, first and foremost, determine whether any EPA action is necessary. Secondly, a formal rulemaking would give EPA a better understanding of the state regulatory programs currently in place to protect groundwater and the environment.

Therefore, rather than using guidance to upend the current state-based regulatory scheme, we request EPA undertake a formal rulemaking process, as required by the Administrative Procedures Act. We thank you in advance for your timely response to our concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

Jason Altmire Member of Congress

Glenn "GT" Thompson Member of Congress Mark S. Critz Member of Congress

Tom Marino Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Bill Shuster Member of Congress

Joseph R. Pitts Member of Congress



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Tim Murphy House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Congressman Murphy:

Thank you for your letter dated July 31, 2012, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with regard to the *Permitting Guidance for Oil and Gas Hydraulic Fracturing Activities Using Diesel Fuels – Draft: Underground Injection Control Program Guidance #84*. Because my office is responsible for implementing the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, I have been asked to respond to your letter.

The EPA recognizes that greater natural gas production can enhance our domestic energy options, reduce our dependence on foreign supplies, and serve as a bridge fuel to renewable energy sources. The EPA is working with states and industry to ensure that the public has confidence that natural gas production will proceed in a safe and responsible manner.

In Pennsylvania, state and federal agencies have complementary roles in ensuring that shale gas extraction is protective of underground sources of drinking water. The agency acknowledges that Pennsylvania is on the front lines of permitting and regulating natural gas production activities. However, Pennsylvania is not alone in that effort, since Congress has made it clear that hydraulic fracturing with diesel fuels remains subject to regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). As Pennsylvania does not have primacy for the UIC program, the EPA will work within its statutory discretion to ensure compliance with UIC program requirements to permit diesel fuels hydraulic fracturing operations. The agency remains committed to working effectively and efficiently with Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection to safeguard our water resources as we carry out our duties under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In your letter, you requested that instead of guidance the EPA undertake a formal rulemaking to determine whether federal regulations on diesel fuels and hydraulic fracturing operations are needed. The EPA has received similar comments and will consider all of these comments moving forward.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Pamela Janifer in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-6969.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter dated July 31, 2012, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with regard to the *Permitting Guidance for Oil and Gas Hydraulic Fracturing Activities Using Diesel Fuels – Draft: Underground Injection Control Program Guidance #84*. Because my office is responsible for implementing the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, I have been asked to respond to your letter.

The EPA recognizes that greater natural gas production can enhance our domestic energy options, reduce our dependence on foreign supplies, and serve as a bridge fuel to renewable energy sources. The EPA is working with states and industry to ensure that the public has confidence that natural gas production will proceed in a safe and responsible manner.

In Pennsylvania, state and federal agencies have complementary roles in ensuring that shale gas extraction is protective of underground sources of drinking water. The agency acknowledges that Pennsylvania is on the front lines of permitting and regulating natural gas production activities. However, Pennsylvania is not alone in that effort, since Congress has made it clear that hydraulic fracturing with diesel fuels remains subject to regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). As Pennsylvania does not have primacy for the UIC program, the EPA will work within its statutory discretion to ensure compliance with UIC program requirements to permit diesel fuels hydraulic fracturing operations. The agency remains committed to working effectively and efficiently with Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection to safeguard our water resources as we carry out our duties under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In your letter, you requested that instead of guidance the EPA undertake a formal rulemaking to determine whether federal regulations on diesel fuels and hydraulic fracturing operations are needed. The EPA has received similar comments and will consider all of these comments moving forward.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Pamela Janifer in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-6969.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Tom Marino House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Congressman Marino:

Thank you for your letter dated July 31, 2012, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with regard to the *Permitting Guidance for Oil and Gas Hydraulic Fracturing Activities Using Diesel Fuels – Draft: Underground Injection Control Program Guidance #84*. Because my office is responsible for implementing the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, I have been asked to respond to your letter.

The EPA recognizes that greater natural gas production can enhance our domestic energy options, reduce our dependence on foreign supplies, and serve as a bridge fuel to renewable energy sources. The EPA is working with states and industry to ensure that the public has confidence that natural gas production will proceed in a safe and responsible manner.

In Pennsylvania, state and federal agencies have complementary roles in ensuring that shale gas extraction is protective of underground sources of drinking water. The agency acknowledges that Pennsylvania is on the front lines of permitting and regulating natural gas production activities. However, Pennsylvania is not alone in that effort, since Congress has made it clear that hydraulic fracturing with diesel fuels remains subject to regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). As Pennsylvania does not have primacy for the UIC program, the EPA will work within its statutory discretion to ensure compliance with UIC program requirements to permit diesel fuels hydraulic fracturing operations. The agency remains committed to working effectively and efficiently with Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection to safeguard our water resources as we carry out our duties under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In your letter, you requested that instead of guidance the EPA undertake a formal rulemaking to determine whether federal regulations on diesel fuels and hydraulic fracturing operations are needed. The EPA has received similar comments and will consider all of these comments moving forward.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Pamela Janifer in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-6969.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Bill Shuster House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Congressman Shuster:

Thank you for your letter dated July 31, 2012, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with regard to the *Permitting Guidance for Oil and Gas Hydraulic Fracturing Activities Using Diesel Fuels – Draft: Underground Injection Control Program Guidance #84*. Because my office is responsible for implementing the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, I have been asked to respond to your letter.

The EPA recognizes that greater natural gas production can enhance our domestic energy options, reduce our dependence on foreign supplies, and serve as a bridge fuel to renewable energy sources. The EPA is working with states and industry to ensure that the public has confidence that natural gas production will proceed in a safe and responsible manner.

In Pennsylvania, state and federal agencies have complementary roles in ensuring that shale gas extraction is protective of underground sources of drinking water. The agency acknowledges that Pennsylvania is on the front lines of permitting and regulating natural gas production activities. However, Pennsylvania is not alone in that effort, since Congress has made it clear that hydraulic fracturing with diesel fuels remains subject to regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). As Pennsylvania does not have primacy for the UIC program, the EPA will work within its statutory discretion to ensure compliance with UIC program requirements to permit diesel fuels hydraulic fracturing operations. The agency remains committed to working effectively and efficiently with Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection to safeguard our water resources as we carry out our duties under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In your letter, you requested that instead of guidance the EPA undertake a formal rulemaking to determine whether federal regulations on diesel fuels and hydraulic fracturing operations are needed. The EPA has received similar comments and will consider all of these comments moving forward.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Pamela Janifer in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-6969.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Jason Altmire House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Congressman Altmire:

Thank you for your letter dated July 31, 2012, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with regard to the *Permitting Guidance for Oil and Gas Hydraulic Fracturing Activities Using Diesel Fuels – Draft: Underground Injection Control Program Guidance #84*. Because my office is responsible for implementing the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, I have been asked to respond to your letter.

The EPA recognizes that greater natural gas production can enhance our domestic energy options, reduce our dependence on foreign supplies, and serve as a bridge fuel to renewable energy sources. The EPA is working with states and industry to ensure that the public has confidence that natural gas production will proceed in a safe and responsible manner.

In Pennsylvania, state and federal agencies have complementary roles in ensuring that shale gas extraction is protective of underground sources of drinking water. The agency acknowledges that Pennsylvania is on the front lines of permitting and regulating natural gas production activities. However, Pennsylvania is not alone in that effort, since Congress has made it clear that hydraulic fracturing with diesel fuels remains subject to regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). As Pennsylvania does not have primacy for the UIC program, the EPA will work within its statutory discretion to ensure compliance with UIC program requirements to permit diesel fuels hydraulic fracturing operations. The agency remains committed to working effectively and efficiently with Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection to safeguard our water resources as we carry out our duties under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In your letter, you requested that instead of guidance the EPA undertake a formal rulemaking to determine whether federal regulations on diesel fuels and hydraulic fracturing operations are needed. The EPA has received similar comments and will consider all of these comments moving forward.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Pamela Janifer in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-6969.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Mark S. Critz House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Congressman Critz:

Thank you for your letter dated July 31, 2012, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with regard to the *Permitting Guidance for Oil and Gas Hydraulic Fracturing Activities Using Diesel Fuels – Draft: Underground Injection Control Program Guidance #84*. Because my office is responsible for implementing the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, I have been asked to respond to your letter.

The EPA recognizes that greater natural gas production can enhance our domestic energy options, reduce our dependence on foreign supplies, and serve as a bridge fuel to renewable energy sources. The EPA is working with states and industry to ensure that the public has confidence that natural gas production will proceed in a safe and responsible manner.

In Pennsylvania, state and federal agencies have complementary roles in ensuring that shale gas extraction is protective of underground sources of drinking water. The agency acknowledges that Pennsylvania is on the front lines of permitting and regulating natural gas production activities. However, Pennsylvania is not alone in that effort, since Congress has made it clear that hydraulic fracturing with diesel fuels remains subject to regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). As Pennsylvania does not have primacy for the UIC program, the EPA will work within its statutory discretion to ensure compliance with UIC program requirements to permit diesel fuels hydraulic fracturing operations. The agency remains committed to working effectively and efficiently with Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection to safeguard our water resources as we carry out our duties under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In your letter, you requested that instead of guidance the EPA undertake a formal rulemaking to determine whether federal regulations on diesel fuels and hydraulic fracturing operations are needed. The EPA has received similar comments and will consider all of these comments moving forward.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Pamela Janifer in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-6969.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Mike Kelly House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Congressman Kelly:

Thank you for your letter dated July 31, 2012, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with regard to the *Permitting Guidance for Oil and Gas Hydraulic Fracturing Activities Using Diesel Fuels – Draft: Underground Injection Control Program Guidance #84*. Because my office is responsible for implementing the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, I have been asked to respond to your letter.

The EPA recognizes that greater natural gas production can enhance our domestic energy options, reduce our dependence on foreign supplies, and serve as a bridge fuel to renewable energy sources. The EPA is working with states and industry to ensure that the public has confidence that natural gas production will proceed in a safe and responsible manner.

In Pennsylvania, state and federal agencies have complementary roles in ensuring that shale gas extraction is protective of underground sources of drinking water. The agency acknowledges that Pennsylvania is on the front lines of permitting and regulating natural gas production activities. However, Pennsylvania is not alone in that effort, since Congress has made it clear that hydraulic fracturing with diesel fuels remains subject to regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). As Pennsylvania does not have primacy for the UIC program, the EPA will work within its statutory discretion to ensure compliance with UIC program requirements to permit diesel fuels hydraulic fracturing operations. The agency remains committed to working effectively and efficiently with Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection to safeguard our water resources as we carry out our duties under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In your letter, you requested that instead of guidance the EPA undertake a formal rulemaking to determine whether federal regulations on diesel fuels and hydraulic fracturing operations are needed. The EPA has received similar comments and will consider all of these comments moving forward.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Pamela Janifer in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-6969.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Joseph R. Pitts House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Congressman Pitts:

Thank you for your letter dated July 31, 2012, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with regard to the *Permitting Guidance for Oil and Gas Hydraulic Fracturing Activities Using Diesel Fuels – Draft: Underground Injection Control Program Guidance #84*. Because my office is responsible for implementing the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, I have been asked to respond to your letter.

The EPA recognizes that greater natural gas production can enhance our domestic energy options, reduce our dependence on foreign supplies, and serve as a bridge fuel to renewable energy sources. The EPA is working with states and industry to ensure that the public has confidence that natural gas production will proceed in a safe and responsible manner.

In Pennsylvania, state and federal agencies have complementary roles in ensuring that shale gas extraction is protective of underground sources of drinking water. The agency acknowledges that Pennsylvania is on the front lines of permitting and regulating natural gas production activities. However, Pennsylvania is not alone in that effort, since Congress has made it clear that hydraulic fracturing with diesel fuels remains subject to regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). As Pennsylvania does not have primacy for the UIC program, the EPA will work within its statutory discretion to ensure compliance with UIC program requirements to permit diesel fuels hydraulic fracturing operations. The agency remains committed to working effectively and efficiently with Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection to safeguard our water resources as we carry out our duties under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In your letter, you requested that instead of guidance the EPA undertake a formal rulemaking to determine whether federal regulations on diesel fuels and hydraulic fracturing operations are needed. The EPA has received similar comments and will consider all of these comments moving forward.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Pamela Janifer in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-6969.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner

Acting Assistant Administrator

- 1/1-5